



Bob Ferguson
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON
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November 14, 2019

Matthew J. Segal
Jessica A. Skelton
PACIFICA LAW GROUP
1191 Second Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98101-2945

Re: **Initiative 976**

Dear Mr. Segal and Ms. Skelton:

This is in response to your letter of November 8, 2019, asking this office to “investigate and promptly institute legal proceedings” to challenge the constitutionality of Initiative 976 (I-976), which was enacted by the voters earlier this month.

Just as statutes enacted by the Legislature are entitled to a presumption of constitutionality, so are statutes enacted by the people. Except in extraordinary circumstances, the role of this office is to defend duly enacted Washington laws. With that context in mind, I have thoroughly reviewed your letter and the legal theories you advance, and I find inadequate basis to deviate from our ordinary role and institute the proceedings that you request. We therefore respectfully decline to do so.

To the extent that your letter is intended to satisfy a precondition to asserting taxpayer standing, nothing in this letter is intended to suggest that the requirements for taxpayer standing would be satisfied here.

Sincerely,

NOAH G. PURCELL
Solicitor General
(360) 753-2536

NGP: kdj